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26 APR 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: D/DCI/IC
DDCI

FROM: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Advisory Committees

My reactions to the group of papers on advisory panels is as follows:

1. I would like you to consult with Bob Bowie on whether we need the Military Economic Advisory Panel. It sounds very mushy to me. I think it could be absorbed in an advisory panel or National Board of Estimates or some such organization which Bob may want to set up for the estimating process. In short, if we are going to reconstitute some new board for estimates we should certainly consider either building around this group or disbanding this one.

2. I am unpersuaded that I need two Scientific and Technical Advisory Panels, albeit they may have been probing into slightly different areas, but my interaction with the DCI's panel didn't indicate to me that they were overworked or unable to cover the territory already assigned to the DDS&T panels.

3. The Medical Consultant's Conference sounds very weak to me on several grounds. First is that we have [] medical doctors on our own payroll already. I recognize that they may not cover some specialties that might be required; it seems to me it is difficult to predict what those specialties may be from month to month and year to year, and therefore they may not be on your panel also. Beyond that, it would seem to me that our [] doctors could do this job while contracting out for particular specialty assistance on an ad hoc basis. This would also give us that assistance in a timely manner rather than waiting for a conference to be convened.

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5. The same applies to nuclear energy programs.

6. I believe that the package as constituted simply asks Bert Lance to take our word for it. For those we really want to maintain I believe we should, in very succinct form, state some of the contributions or accomplishments of the panels in the last year. This is done only in the statement on the Behavioral Sciences Panel in paragraph 3, but even there it is too broad to be meaningful. In short, rather than telling Bert Lance what these panels have done over time in general terms or what they are supposed to do, let's list some specific contributions.

STANSFIELD TURNER
Admiral, U.S. Navy

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